

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 10133 220822Z

15

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 SPC-01

/055 W

----- 035538

R 220500Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3095

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10133

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

NQTAGS: OGENWF CB

SUBJ: EMBASSY PRESS POLICY

1. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THE PERSISTENTLY
INFERIOR PRESS COVERAGE OF THE WAR IN CAMBODIA.

(A) THE RESIDENT AMERICAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE
INEXPERIENCED; MOST ARE STRINGERS WITH LITTLE
PREVIOUS PRESS WORK;

(B) THE ABLER, ACCREDITED CORRESPONDENTS WHO DROP IN FROM
TIME TO TIME ARE NOT HERE LONG ENOUGH TO FORM AN ADEQUATE
BASIS TO JUDGE THE KHMER; THEIR COUNTRY AND THEIR WAR;
MANY DO NOT HAVE FRENCH, WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE;

(C) THE COUNTRY ITSELF IS HARD TO KNOW, BENEATH ITS
WELCOMING SURFACE; INDEED IT DOESN'T KNOW ITSELF; THERE IS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 10133 220822Z

NO SURE SOURCE OF INFORMATION TO TURN TO AMONG THE KHMER,
TRAVEL IS DIFFICULT AND OFTEN DANGEROUS;

(D) PERSONAL POLITICAL BELIEFS OF CERTAIN REPORTERS AND
EDITORIAL STAFFS, IN PARTICULAR THE TENDENCY TO USE REPORTING
AS A MEANS OF WITNESSING AGAINST THE INDOCHINESE WAR, OR
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, ARE AN IMPORTANT DISTORTING
FACTOR.

2. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS LAST FACTOR, AND
LITTLE ABOUT THE OTHERS. WE HAVE TRIED WITHIN THE LIMITS
OF THE VERY HEAVY WORK WEEKS MOST MEN ASSIGNED HERE CARRY,
TO PUT OURSELVES AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE PRESS. EMBASSY

OFFICERS SAW 75 CORRESPONDENTS IN APRIL, 49 IN MAY, 11 IN
JUNE, 55 IN JULY, 63 IN AUGUST, AND 34 SO FAR IN SEPTEMBER.

3. WITHOUT HAVING ANY ILLUSIONS AS TO THE EFFECT, WE THINK
WE SHOULD NOW MAKE A FURTHER EFFORT. BEGINNING TUESDAY
NEXT WEEK, CHARGE, THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND CHMEDTC WILL
MEET INFORMALLY WITH THE PRESS EVERY OTHER WEEK AT
CHARGE'S RESIDENCE. GROUND RULES WILL BE:

(A) NO RPT NO ATTRIBUTION, ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR
QUOTES WILL BE CONSIDERED EITHER FOR THE RECORD, OR FOR
ATTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN OR WESTERN SOURCES;

(B) AGENCIES OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO BREAK CONFIDENCE WOULD BE
DROPPED FROM THE GROUP;

(C) ALL RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. MEDIA WILL BE INVITED,
WHETHER FULLY ACCREDITED OR STRINGERS, AND WHATEVER THEIR
NATIONALITY; ONLY FULLY ACCREDITED VISITORS WILL BE INCLUDED
(I.E., NO VISITING STRINGERS OR FREE LANCE).

4. OTHER EMBASSY PRESS PRACTICES WILL REMAIN AS AT PRESENT:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 10133 220822Z

(A) ALL INTERVIEWS AND CONTACTS TO BE APPROVED ON A CASE BY
CASE BASIS BY THE DCM;

(B) INTERVIEWS WITH DATT TO BE GRANTED ONLY EXCEPTIONALLY,

TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF HIS REPORTING;

(C) INTERVIEWS WILL BE LARGELY AT A SENIOR LEVEL (I.E., COUNSELOR AND ITS EQUIVALENT).

5. WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS, AS WILL YOU, THAT THE EMBASSY IS NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR THE MEDIA. THAT IS INEVITABLE. HOWEVER, WE WILL BE MAKING EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO HELP THE PRESS KEEP INFORMED.
ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, THE PRESS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM10133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730916/aaaaalvc.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY PRESS POLICY
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, CB
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005